

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 172121

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DRAFTED BY NEA:HNSAUNDERS:HE

APPROVED BY P:JJSISCO

NEA - MR. ATHERTON

S/S - MR. ORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 172121

NODIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, SY, IS, XF

SUBJECT: U.S. ASSURANCES TO SYRIA

REF: TEL AVIV 4640

FOR AMBASSADOR EYES ONLY FROM SISCO

1. IN RESPONSE TO REFTTEL, LET ME REVIEW EVOLUTION OF POSITIONS DURING MARCH NEGOTIATIONS WHICH PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR AN ANSWER TO YOUR QUERY.

2. AT BEGINNING OF MARCH NEGOTIATIONS, ISRAELIS INSISTED THAT THERE BE NO LINKAGE BETWEEN EGYPT-ISRAEL AGREEMENT AND A FURTHER ISRAEL-SYRIA AGREEMENT AND VARIOUS ISRAELIS TOOK PUBLIC LINE THAT THERE COULD BE NO FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS WITH SYRIA AT THIS TIME. SYRIA, ON THE OTHER HAND, APPEARED TO BE MOVING INTO POSITION TO UNDERCUT EGYPT-ISRAEL AGREEMENT UNLESS IT WERE INCLUDED IN NEGOTIATING

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 172121

PROCESS. SECRETARY'S ACHIEVEMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT IN MARCH

WERE (A) TO PERSUADE ASAD THAT IT WAS UNREALISTIC TO ATTEMPT SIMULTANEOUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL ON BOTH FRONTS AND THAT FORMAL LINKAGE WOULD BE UNREALISTIC AND (B) TO PERSUADE ISRAELIS THAT THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE SOME VISIBLE ATTEMPT TO ACHIEVE MOVEMENT ON SYRIAN FRONT FOLLOWING ANY EGYPT-ISRAEL AGREEMENT. SYRIANS HAVE CONSISTENTLY BEEN TOLD THAT WE HAVE MADE CLEAR TO ISRAEL THAT ANY AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT WOULD HAVE TO BE FOLLOWED BY FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS WITH SYRIA AND THAT WE WOULD MAKE A SERIOUS EFFORT IN THAT REGARD. THUS WHILE WE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN AVOIDING ANY FORMAL LINKAGE BETWEEN SYRIAN AND EGYPTIAN AGREEMENTS, THE POLITICAL REALITIES ARE THAT THERE IS A RELATIONSHIP WHICH MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

3. AS DINITZ SAID HERE JULY 3, ISRAELIS ARE NOT NOW AVERSE TO FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS WITH SYRIA ON INTERIM AGREEMENT BUT THAT ANY FURTHER INTERIM STEP WITH SYRIA WILL BE ONLY COSMETIC. THAT IS THE POSITION YOU HEARD RABIN DESCRIBE CRYPTICALLY IN BONN. OUR CURRENT VIEW IS THAT IT WILL BE NECESSARY AT LEAST TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS ON AN INTERIM AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SYRIA WITH THE THOUGHT THAT, IF THEY STALL, ISRAEL MIGHT THEN MAKE THE MOVE DISCUSSED IN BONN AND THEN MOVE TO BROADER NEGOTIATIONS AT GENEVA WITH SYRIA AT THE TOP OF THE AGENDA. KISSINGER

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